



# Joint News Release

Boise, Idaho

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## Release ENRIC-2004-3

### **Treasure Valley Aquifer Legislative Working Group** **Sets Meeting For April 20 In Boise**

(Boise, Idaho – April 16, 2004) - The Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group of the Expanded Natural Resources Expanded Interim Committee will meet Tuesday (April 20) in Boise, the Committee announced today.

The Working Group will meet from 9:30 to noon at the House Majority Caucus Room in the Capitol Building. The meeting is open to the public and Committee officials say the meeting could be moved to the Gold Room depending on how many people attend the meeting.

At Tuesday's meeting the Working Group will hear presentations on ground water issues involving the Treasure Valley Aquifer system, plus deal with initial organizational and work task issues

Five Idaho legislators make up the Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group. They are: Rep. Mike Moyle of Star, chairman; Sen. John Andreason of Boise; Sen. Brad Little of Emmett; Rep. Lawrence Denny of Midvale; and Rep. Darrell Bolz of Caldwell.

The Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group is one of five working groups formed by the Idaho Legislature's Natural Resources Interim Committee to deal with water supply and management issues across the State.

The Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group has been tasked to:

1. Recommend short-term and long-term management goals and objectives for the Treasure Valley Aquifer together with standards to determine whether the goals and objectives are being met;
2. Investigate and make recommendations regarding water supply measures or projects that should be implemented to achieve the short-term and long-term goals and objectives, including but not limited to a proposed recharge plan;
3. Investigate the extent of ground water depletions from the Treasure Valley Aquifer and make recommendations for reducing or curtailing ground water depletions;
4. Study and recommend methods for funding implementation of Treasure Valley Aquifer management goals and objectives;
5. Evaluate and make recommendations regarding an administrative structure for ensuring that short-term and long-term goals and objectives are implemented; and
6. Develop performance benchmarks for implementation of goals and objectives.

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Additional responsibilities of the Working Group include:

1. Establish benchmarks. The objective is to have a plan of action to define what constitutes success. The working group, along with all working groups, is to review the three components that affect aquifer water levels, i.e., methods for enhancing water supply/recharge; water use efficiencies; and reduction in ground water use. Each area should be reviewed over the course of the year and a recommendation should be made to the Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee as to what actions should be pursued in each area;
2. Present questions and/or concerns to the Interim Committee. The Interim Committee needs to know what state policy issues should be addressed by the main committee and in what order the issues should be addressed. The committee structure is a two-way affair - if there are issues of broad statewide importance upon which the working group needs direction, those issues need to be presented to the Interim Committee to be addressed;
3. Report to the Interim Committee on any resource needs of the working group to accomplish its tasks; and
4. Immediately begin discussions on goals and objectives for aquifer management.

If you have any questions, please call the Legislative Services Office at (208) 334-2475. Future notices, agendas and minutes will be posted on the Idaho Legislature's Internet page at <http://www2.state.id.us/legislat/legislat.html>.

Other working group information is available at [www.idwr.state.id.us/Committee](http://www.idwr.state.id.us/Committee)

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